



IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

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Business Disaster Assistance Program Applications Due December 31

Business owners have until Dec. 31 to apply for programs created to assist businesses affected by the 2008 disasters.

These programs are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis through Community Development Block Grant Funds administered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED). Applications are accepted locally through Iowa's Councils of Governments and Entitlement Cities.

The programs include:

- Business Rental Assistance Program
- Expanded Business Rental Assistance Program
- Loan Interest Expense Program
- Commercial Rental Revenue Gap Program
- Residential Landlord Business Support
- Equipment Reimbursement Assistance Program
- Flood Insurance Reimbursement Program

Any business applying for these programs must be located in a 2008 federally-declared disaster area. Business owners should apply at their local Council of Government or Entitlement City. Visit www.rio.iowa.gov/assets/disaster_program_contact_list.pdf for a listing of area Council of Governments and Entitlement Cities.

For additional information on these programs, visit www.iowalifechanging.com/jumpstart/business_rental.aspx at the IDIED Web site.

\$1 Million in Local Comprehensive Planning Grants Awarded to 31 Cities, Seven Counties

A total of \$1 million in grants from the Iowa Smart Planning: Local Comprehensive Planning Grant Program has been awarded to 31 cities and seven counties by the Rebuild Iowa Office and the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

These grants will be used to support development and adoption of forward-thinking comprehensive plans to guide long-term recovery efforts and subsequent decisions that reduce risk in flood-prone

areas. Grant amounts range from \$3,750 for Columbus Junction, which will also be working with Columbus City, to \$89,000 for Dubuque County and participating communities within the county. Grants provide up to a maximum of 50 percent of the total plan costs. Three of the city grants are multi-jurisdictional and five are county-lead, multi-jurisdictional plans.

The \$1 million program is funded through Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG) Disaster Recovery funds provided to Iowa from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in response to the catastrophic storms and floods of 2008.

"These comprehensive planning grants will go a long way to ensure that Iowa communities and counties are growing in a way that reduces risk and fosters economic growth," said Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, RIO executive director.

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Iowa-Cedar Rivers Basin Study Takes Holistic Approach

A new study just getting underway incorporates many Iowans' concerns about water quality and quantity, outdoor recreation, farming, development and the destructive 2008 flooding of the river basin made up of the Iowa and Cedar Rivers.

The project, called the Iowa-Cedar Rivers Basin Interagency Watershed Study, will look at the many different aspects of the river basin over the next two-and-a-half years. Areas of inquiry will include how land use affects the way water flows through the watersheds within the basin, the vision of residents for future use of water resources in the watershed, and even scenarios of what would happen if certain types of flood-prevention measures are implemented, explained Bill Ehm, water policy coordinator for the

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Undertaking this study is no easy task, considering that the Iowa-Cedar rivers basin covers nearly 25 percent of Iowa. The basin encompasses 12,620 square miles and includes within its area crop and livestock production; manufacturing and high-tech industries; the cities of Mason City, Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown and Iowa City; and one million people.

The study is a multi-objective approach to issues within the basin, one that will provide a more holistic approach, he said. Participants are looking at flood risk management, water quality improvement, recreation, appropriate uses for floodplains and improved aquatic habitat, just to name a few areas of concern.

Additionally, researchers at the Iowa Flood Center (created at the University of Iowa in the aftermath of the 2008 flooding) are modeling scenarios of how water flow would be affected within the basin if various wetlands are restored or flood stabilization structures, such as flood walls, levees or storm water storage areas are built.

"We have to remember as we sit in Cedar Falls or Cedar Rapids, as we just did for a meeting, we are at about the midpoint of the river system," Ehm said. "What happens above us will impact us, and what happens downriver will be a result of what we do here. It is all connected. We have to look at everything, and it is complex."

To learn more about the study, visit the rivers basin Web site at www.iowacedarbasin.org.

PLANNING GRANTS (continued)

"These plans will demonstrate the importance and benefits of the Iowa Smart Planning Principles."

The program is based on the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and local comprehensive planning guidance contained in Senate File 2389 and signed into law in April 2010. Smart Planning is meant to improve community resiliency following the storms of 2008 in ways that increase economic opportunity, protect environmental resources and improve quality of life.

Cities which received grants for either creating or updating a comprehensive plan, and the amounts awarded, are:

- Afton, \$9,000
- Burlington, \$50,000
- Carroll, \$12,000
- Cedar Falls, \$50,000
- Cedar Rapids, \$50,000
- Cherokee, \$14,000
- Clinton, \$30,000
- Clive, \$50,000
- Columbus Junction*, \$3,750
- Council Bluffs, \$50,000
- Cresco*, \$22,500
- Cumming, \$28,000
- Dow City, \$4,000
- Durant, \$15,000
- Granger, \$28,000
- Iowa City, \$50,000
- Keota, \$16,500
- Lewis, \$7,500
- Lorimor, \$4,000
- Manchester, \$29,680
- Manning, \$6,000
- Marshalltown, \$47,700
- McGregor, \$7,500
- Missouri Valley, \$7,500

- Mount Ayr, \$9,375
- Newton*, \$18,000
- Palo, \$5,500
- Riverdale, \$10,000
- Stanton, \$7,500
- Vinton, \$5,682
- Washington, \$27,033

Counties receiving grants are:

- Delaware County*, \$39,000
- Dubuque County*, \$89,000
- Fayette County*, \$31,250
- Hardin County*, \$61,250
- Jones County, \$5,290
- Linn County, \$38,490
- Winneshiek County*, \$60,000

**Asterisks denote multi-jurisdictional plans with the lead community or county listed.*